

STATINTL

White House Turnabout

With the selection of Fowler Hamilton as director of the newly-created Agency for International Development, the future of the foreign aid program now depends in large measure on the quality of the second echelon appointments. For unlike the President's intended nominee, George D. Woods, whose name was withdrawn at his own request when certain public power state Senators threatened to raise a row over his association with the Dixon-Yates affair, Mr. Hamilton brings to his assignment no particular special knowledge of the aid-receiving countries or of the past decade of aimless fumbles in the evolution of our aid efforts. He will necessarily play more the role of gen-

eral administrative coordinator than of self-starting policy maker. And if the agency is to improve its performance, he will have to give such power of decision as he does choose to delegate to men who are creative area experts quite as much as bureaucratic managers.

A 50-year-old former Rhodes Scholar who served with the Foreign Economic Administration during the war, Mr. Hamilton has a reputation among fellow lawyers (he is a former law partner of Undersecretary of State George Ball) for sharp analysis uncluttered by doctrinaire preconceptions. This is the quality of mind needed in confronting societies and economies alien in many significant respects to the American model. He is said to harbor none of the antipathy, so in evidence during the Eisenhower years, to publicly-sponsored development abroad. But he is an unknown on how much our aid should be used to promote American private investment and on other highly-sensitive issues.

Mr. Hamilton had been approached in early August to succeed Allen Dulles as CIA Director. The appointment seemed certain. His name was dropped, however, when he balked at White House suggestions that he agree to serve at least six years. His selection for this new assignment came in a flash of improvisation, one day before it was publicly announced. It was a rush job to end the harmful uncertainty following the protracted controversy over Woods. Of that episode, it must be said that the easy surrender of the White House to the bullying of a few Senators, after months of careful investigation leading up to the Woods decision, did nothing to strengthen the Administration's authority in the Congress.